



## IN FOCUS

PROMOTING EQUITABLE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH IN A DEMOCRATIC SOUTHERN AFRICA

1<sup>st</sup> QUARTER 2006

### IN FOCUS

by Anthony Vodraska, Acting Regional Director



Over the past year, we have been transitioning to our new name. We are no longer the Regional Center for Southern Africa. We will now be called USAID/Southern Africa.

That was the easy part. Now, changing all of the forms, reports, newsletters, systems, and websites will take time. The name change is part of a broader effort by USAID to more accurately convey the geographic focus of USAID's three regional missions in Africa. USAID's West Africa Regional Program based in Accra, Ghana, will now be called USAID/West Africa. USAID's Regional Economic Development Services Office based in Nairobi, Kenya, will now be called USAID/East Africa. The latter two Missions will continue to support the central African countries in their portfolios. Each regional mission may also have limited activities outside the geographic area denoted in its title.

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### ON THE MOVE

USAID and the Government of Botswana (GOB) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding that programs \$801,000 from the **Botswana Trust Fund** for activities in export development and environmental protection.



Ambassador Canavan and Anthony Vodraska at a signing ceremony with GOB officials on March 7

USAID closed its bilateral mission to Botswana in 1995. Although the economy has continued to grow since then, Botswana wants to diversify its economy to reduce its dependence on diamonds. In 2005, USAID/Southern Africa learned about a pool of funds from bilateral program counterpart contributions that could be used to finance current development activities. The U.S. Embassy has been a strong proponent of Botswana's diversification strategy. The U.S. Embassy and USAID negotiated a thirty-month package of support that includes trade policy analysis, private sector participation in trade policy debates, and

the development of a tropical forest conservation fund.

The USAID Mission will manage the Botswana Trust Fund activities as part of its non-presence country support. For more information, contact [Lawrence Johnson](#).

**S**peaking at the launch of the **Swaziland Enterprises and Entrepreneurship Program (SWEEP)**, U.S. Ambassador Lewis Lucke challenged Swaziland to improve on the rule of law and invest in its people. He announced that the U.S. Government has engaged TechnoServe, a non-profit organization, to help Swaziland address its problem of unemployment and improve the business environment.



The King of Swaziland launches SWEEP at the Royal Swazi Convention Centre on February 28

TechnoServe will give Swazi entrepreneurs the technical assistance they need to create and grow rural businesses, thus helping to mitigate poverty. By working with local financiers, Technoserve will also help small and medium enterprises obtain access to credit.

USAID/Southern Africa will manage this \$8.9 million five-year program as part of its non-presence country support. For more information about SWEEP, contact [Lawrence Johnson](#).

**T**he Regional Contracts Office (RCO) has produced two new training videos: "Post-Award Presentation for Non-US, Non-governmental NGOs" and "Preparing Statements of Work". RCO plans to send the new training

CDs to client missions in the near future. These complement the "Contractor Performance Reporting System" training video that RCO transmitted to all client missions last year. If you need extra copies, contact [Cynthia Judge](#).



The RCO family is ready to serve you

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Menongue Celebrates World Water Day for the First Time!

Angola, Botswana, and Namibia agreed in 1994 to establish the Permanent Okavango River Basin Water Commission (OKACOM) to promote regional, coordinated water resources development objectives for the Okavango River Basin, while addressing the legitimate social and economic needs of these three riparian states. In Angola, USAID is supporting OKACOM's efforts to improve community-based river basin management. The Department of Water and Energy of the Kuando Kubango Province requested assistance for the local celebration of World Water Day on March 22. For the first time ever, the province celebrated this major international event in its capital city of Menongue. The event was organized by a team from the USAID-funded Okavango Integrated River Basin Management Project (IRBM), the provincial department of Water and Energy, and a local non-governmental organization, Associação de Conservação do Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Rural (ACADIR).



The team planned several activities for the week leading up to the celebration. A workshop for church pastors, representatives from various government departments, youth groups, political parties, and traditional leaders focused attention on Menongue's water situation, such as water related diseases and river pollution.



World Water Day in Menongue

A separate discussion with youth from the College of Education focused on helping communities to better understand the need to develop rules and practices appropriate to river protection. On the eve of World Water Day, Radio Kubango broadcast a radio debate, led by OKACOM Commissioner Isidro Pinheiro.

The highlight of the week was a clean-up campaign for the "Ilha do Kuebe", a landmark in the center of Menongue. This beautiful Island, surrounded by rapids of the Kuebe River, is used by the community for washing clothes, bathing, and collecting drinking water. Because of its heavy use and the lack of proper waste management and disposal facilities, the banks of the Kuebe are lined with garbage. Local residents mobilized for the event beyond everyone's expectations. "We had expected about 200 people to participate in this activity but as soon as the community saw the energy demonstrated by ACADIR staff and representatives of the Department of Water and Energy, more people joined in and the number shot to about 400 people", explains Usona Kawika, Project Coordinator for ACADIR.

On World Water Day, the Menongue community defied pouring rain and joined government departments, ACADIR, and OKACOM to commemorate the importance of water and the Okavango River in their daily lives. In his opening speech, the Director of Water and Energy, Felipe Sabino, emphasized that "the objective of our celebrations is to make the public aware of the importance of saving water, keeping our rivers clean, public hygiene in general and sharing information about water especially of the rivers around us which we share with other countries." The day ended with the birth of a World Water Day baby, appropriately named Felipe in honor of Mr. Sabino.



Baby Felipe born on World Water Day

For more information about the IRBM project, contact [Keith Kline](#) or [Chris Schaan](#).

## The Regional Environmental Advisor Corner

Emelia Sunkutu, legal counsel to the Environmental Council of Zambia, urged NGOs "to take a proactive role in environmental awareness, management, and compliance". These remarks set the tone for a workshop on **Environmental Assessment and Environmentally Sound Design for Small-Scale Activities**. The USAID Africa Bureau organized the five-day workshop for USAID staff, implementing partners, and Zambia government officials. USAID/Southern Africa's Regional

Environmental Advisor, Camilien Saint-Cyr, was a facilitator and trainer.



Workshop on Environmental Assessment and Environmentally Sound Design for Small-Scale Activities

Participants enjoyed the practical, hands-on approach to training. Small groups visited six projects at various stages of development, including a small-scale copper mine, rural irrigation project, and eco-tourism facility.

The course promotes incorporation of sound environmental management principles into the design and implementation of activities sponsored by USAID. For more information about environmental training, contact [Camilien Saint-Cyr](mailto:Camilien.Saint-Cyr@usaid.gov) or visit [www.encapfrica.org](http://www.encapfrica.org).

## FOCUS ON:

### ASNAPP

**A**SNAPP (Agribusiness in Sustainable Natural African Plant Products) is a non-profit organization formed in 1999 with funding from USAID to create and develop successful African agribusinesses in the natural plant products sector. ASNAPP focuses on high-value natural plant products that enable African agribusinesses to compete in local, regional, and international markets. These products include herbal teas, culinary herbs and spices, essential and press oils, and medicinal plants.

ASNAPP collaborates with its networks in Ghana, Senegal, and Zambia to develop inter-regional

trade in indigenous teas and spices. ASNAPP provides quality assurance and quality control systems training and recommends post-harvest handling technologies to improve productivity and shelf life. Most importantly, ASNAPP has developed successful models to link rural on- and off-farm enterprises to South African and Fair Trade buyers.

### ASNAPP Southern Africa Essential Oil Mini Symposium

**I**ndustry experts and researchers from the U.S., Rwanda, Zambia, Madagascar, Nigeria, and South Africa recently gathered in Stellenbosch for a three-day ASNAPP symposium on Southern African essential oils. More than 100 participants attended sessions on germplasm, production, distillation and extraction, standards and requirements, quality control, adulteration and mislabeling, and research.

One of the most popular sessions dealt with the importance of markets. Before planting, producers must find out what the buyer wants. This determines what to plant, how much to plant, and what type of distillation to use.



International industry experts and researchers at the Essential Oil Symposium, February 27-March 1

### ASNAPP Farmer-2-Farmer Workshop on Indigenous Herbal Teas

**T**he South African indigenous tea industry generates an estimated R476 million (\$75 million) annually, with rooibos accounting for R460 million (\$73 million). In 2004, rooibos



and honeybush tea exports reached an all-time high of more than 6,500 tons, due mainly to the increase in international demand.

ASNAPP recently sponsored a farmer-2-farmer workshop that brought together thirty-three tea farmers from four community growing areas in South Africa to exchange experiences in harvesting, processing, and packaging rooibos tea. Honeybush farmers visited the Red T Company, the second largest commercial tea operation in South Africa, to learn more about harvesting and processing rooibos tea for export markets.

The theme of the workshop was “The future belongs to the organized.” Tea farmers learned to appreciate the importance of planning at every stage of harvesting and processing. All farmer groups have completed a course in business management, facilitated by ASNAPP.



Honeybush tea farmers don protective clothing before entering the Red T Company rooibos processing area

### **ASNAPP Paprika Workshop**

**A**SNAPP trained thirty-five participants from fifteen organizations at a paprika production and seed evaluation trial set-up workshop in Malawi. This is part of a broader program to build capacity for extension workers and researchers in the production and marketing of paprika in the Chinyanja Triangle.

The Paprika Association of Malawi highlighted lessons learned from experiences with paprika production in Zambia. The issues included the use of recycled seed, side-selling of crop by farmers, grading and standards harmonization, pricing, delayed payment for delivered crop to buyers/processors, and low yields from sub-standard seeds.

There are four research stations for the paprika trials/demonstration in the Chinyanja triangle – two in Zambia, one in Malawi, and one in Mozambique.



Group photo from paprika training workshop in Malawi

For more information about ASNAPP activities, contact [Jerry Brown](#) or [Cecilia Khupe](#).

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS HUB**



## **USAID TRADE HUB HAPPENINGS**

**Botswana Cattle Producers Association.** In January, the Botswana Meat Corporation raised the price paid to cattle producers by an average of 40%, as part of a Cabinet policy decision to implement export parity pricing and boost the cattle industry. This success is a direct result of the policy analysis and capacity building support the USAID Trade Hub provided to the Botswana

Cattle Producers Association, which has been lobbying for fundamental policy change in the beef and cattle sector.

**Time Release Study.** The USAID Trade Hub facilitated the design and execution of a Time Release Study (TRS) in Malawi, the first study of its kind completed in the Southern African region. The TRS is an effective diagnostic tool for identifying inefficiencies in the customs clearance process. The USAID Trade Hub is now assisting Malawi to develop an Action Plan to address these inefficiencies.

**Single Administrative Document.** USAID Trade Hub technical assistance enabled the Mozambican Customs Administration to align their customs declaration forms with the Single Administrative Document (SAD 500), which has been successfully implemented on the Trans-Kalahari Corridor. The SAD 500 will speed up clearance of goods and transit movement along the Maputo Corridor, thereby reducing the costs of moving goods across international borders.

**Zambia Road and Road Traffic Act.** Following a meeting facilitated by the USAID Trade Hub, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs in Zambia agreed to legislative changes to the Road and Road Traffic Act. This paves the way for harmonization of vehicle overload control limits and enforcement principles.

The ***Practitioner's Guide to Importing Fresh Produce into South African Markets*** is now available on the USAID Trade Hub website at [www.satradehub.org](http://www.satradehub.org). This manual will help exporters in SADC countries understand the procedures to follow when exporting into South Africa.

The fourth edition of the quarterly publication ***Inside Southern African Trade (INSAT)*** is available on the USAID Trade Hub website at [www.satradehub.org](http://www.satradehub.org). This issue explores the role of the private sector in shaping the business environment in Southern Africa through participation in the policy-making process.

The **USAID Trade Hub website** received a record number of visitors during the quarter. See what all the excitement is about – visit [www.satradehub.org](http://www.satradehub.org).

## AROUND THE REGION

A severe outbreak of diarrhea has claimed more than 400 lives in **Botswana** since January. USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is providing assistance to the government of Botswana. **Namibia** was selected as a Millennium Challenge Account eligible country in the new Lower Middle Income Country category. The second phase of negotiations of the European Union - **East and Southern Africa** Economic Partnership Agreement - was launched in Mauritius in February. **Malawi** and **Mozambique** signed a preferential trade agreement in January that will allow Malawian goods to enter Mozambique duty-free. **Namibia** celebrated the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its independence in March. **Zambia's** proposed new electoral bill met with criticism from civil society organizations in March. Annual inflation in **Zimbabwe** reached 782% in February, the highest in the world.

## HAIL AND FAREWELL

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, USAID/Southern Africa reluctantly said goodbye to **Lisa Whitley**, Regional Program Economist, and **Valencia Msibi**, Senior Program Specialist. Lisa has moved on to new adventures as the Program Economist for USAID/Kenya, while Valencia is enjoying retirement in Swaziland after serving USAID for seventeen years.

The Regional Contracts Office (RCO) is pleased to announce the arrival of **Waymon Carroll** and **Shahid Pervaiz**.



Shahid Pervaiz



Waymon Carroll

Waymon, a new Regional Contracting Officer, hails from Reston, Virginia. He joined USAID in 2001 after working for many years at the Defense Contract Management Agency. He has worked for the Office of Acquisition and Assistance in Washington and USAID/Columbia, where he

received a Meritorious Honor Award. At the USAID Mission, he provides acquisition and assistance services to other USAID Missions in Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Shahid joined USAID/Southern Africa as a Regional Contracts Specialist on February 1. He is primarily responsible for providing contracting support to focus countries under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Before coming to Gaborone, Shahid was assigned to USAID/Ukraine as a Senior Acquisition and Assistance Specialist. He is accompanied by his spouse, Rehana, and two teen-aged children, Mohammed and Zehra.

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